(b) the steps taken to reduce it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Demurrage charges paid to the Railway durig the last three years are as follows:

| Year | Lakh Rs. |
|---|---|
| 1985-86 | 809.38 |
| 1986-87 | 823.82 |
| 1987-88 | 789.65 (Provisional) |

Low productivity of labour combined with poor infrastructural facilities is the main cause for accrual of demurrage.

(b) The following steps have been taken to reduce accrul of demurrage:—

(i) Handling arrangements at railheads have been strengthened.

(ii) Action is taken against handling and transport contractors or departmental labour whoever is found responsible for delays.

(iii) The railways are persuaded to waive demurrage charges in cases where unloading delay is beyond the control of FCI or due to lack of adequate infrastructural facilities.

**Value of waste fruits and food processing units in the country**

2614. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the approximate value of fruits being wasted each year in the country;

(b) the names of 2 or 3 areas where the fruits are being wasted, the types of fruits and the approximate value thereof and whether there is any fruit processing unit in this area; and

(c) the number of State owned fruit processing units in the country alongwith their installed capacity and approximate utilisation of the capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Complaints against contractor of Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd.**

2615. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PATTNAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 150—200 distributors had lodged complaints against the contractors of the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., to the concerned authorities regarding 4-5 Kgs. less weight of sugar in each of the sugar bags supplied by them to Fair Price Shops under circle 2, Shahdara on November 5, 1988 but the Assistant Commissioner and Commissioner of that circle have suppressed all the complaints at lower levels;

(b) whether any enquiry have been conducted in this case, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to suspend the guilty officers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) Delhi Administration have stated that they have received 11 complaints regarding short-weightment of sugar from the fair price shops in Circle 2. These complaints have been referred to the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation, for taking necessary action and making up the short-weightment.